

die from drug use. The social costs of drug use continue to climb, reaching \$110 billion in 1995, a 64 percent increase since 1990. Much of the economic burden of drug abuse falls on those who do not abuse drugs—American families and their communities. Although we have made progress, much remains to be done.

The 1999 National Drug Control Strategy provides a comprehensive balanced approach to move us closer to a drug-free America. This Strategy presents a long-term plan to change American attitudes and behavior with regard to illegal drugs. Among the efforts this Strategy focuses on are:

- Educating children: studies demonstrate that when our children understand the dangers of drugs, their rates of drug use drop. Through the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, the Safe and Drug Free Schools Program and other efforts, we will continue to focus on helping our youth reject drugs.
- Decreasing the addicted population: the addicted make up roughly a quarter of all drug users, but consume two-thirds of all drugs in America. Our strategy for reducing the number of addicts focuses on closing the “treatment gap.”
- Breaking the cycle of drugs and crime: numerous studies confirm that the vast majority of prisoners commit their crimes to buy drugs or while under the influence of drugs. To help break this link between crime and drugs, we must promote the Zero Tolerance Drug Supervision initiative to better keep offenders drug- and crime-free. We can do this by helping States and localities to implement tough new systems to drug test, treat, and punish prisoners, parolees, and probationers.
- Securing our borders: the vast majority of drugs consumed in the United States enter this Nation through the Southwest border, Florida, the Gulf States, and other border areas and air and sea ports of entry. The flow of drugs into this Nation violates our sovereignty and brings crime and suffering to our streets and communities. We remain committed to, and will expand, efforts to safeguard our borders from drugs.
- Reducing the supply of drugs: we must reduce the availability of drugs and the ease with which they can be obtained. Our efforts to reduce the supply of drugs must target both domestic and overseas production of these deadly substances.

Our ability to attain these objectives is dependent upon the collective will of the American people and the strength of our leadership. The progress we have made to date is a credit to Americans of all walks of life—State and local leaders, parents, teachers, coaches, doctors, police officers, and clergy. Many have taken a stand against drugs. These gains also result from the

leadership and hard work of many, including Attorney General Reno, Secretary of Health and Human Services Shalala, Secretary of Education Riley, Treasury Secretary Rubin, and Drug Policy Director McCaffrey. I also thank the Congress for their past and future support. If we are to make further progress, we must maintain a bipartisan commitment to the goals of the Strategy.

As we enter the new millennium, we are reminded of our common obligation to build and leave for coming generations a stronger Nation. Our National Drug Control Strategy will help create a safer, healthier future for all Americans.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 8, 1999.

PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND ROMANIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-13)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b) and (d)), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Romania Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, with accompanying annex and agreed minute. I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the agreement, and the memorandum of the Director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency with the Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement concerning the agreement. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Energy, which includes a summary of the provisions of the agreement and various other attachments, including agency views, is also enclosed.

The proposed agreement with Romania has been negotiated in accordance with the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1978 and as otherwise amended. In my judgment, the proposed agreement meets all statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States. The agreement provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and Romania under appropriate conditions and controls reflecting our com-

mon commitment to nuclear non-proliferation goals. Cooperation until now has taken place under a series of supply agreements dating back to 1966 pursuant to the agreement for peaceful nuclear cooperation between the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Government of Romania supports international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to additional countries. Romania is a party to the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and has an agreement with the IAEA for the application of full-scope safeguards to its nuclear program. Romania also subscribes to the Nuclear Suppliers Group guidelines, which set forth standards for the responsible export of nuclear commodities for peaceful use, and to the guidelines of the NPT Exporters Committee (Zangger Committee), which obligate members to require the application of IAEA safeguards on nuclear exports to nonnuclear weapon states. In addition, Romania is a party to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, whereby it agrees to apply international standards of physical protection to the storage and transport of nuclear material under its jurisdiction or control. Finally, Romania was one of the first countries to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

I believe that peaceful nuclear cooperation with Romania under the proposed new agreement will be fully consistent with, and supportive of, our policy of responding positively and constructively to the process of democratization and economic reform in Central Europe. Cooperation under the agreement also will provide opportunities for U.S. business on terms that fully protect vital U.S. national security interests.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested agencies in reviewing the proposed agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to, the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

Because this agreement meets all applicable requirements of the Atomic Energy Act, as amended, for agreements for peaceful nuclear cooperation, I am transmitting it to the Congress without exempting it from any requirement contained in section 123 a. of that Act. This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both sections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately the consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations and House International Relations Committees as provided in section 123 b. Upon completion of the 30-day continuous session period provided for in section 123 b., the 60-day

continuous session period provided for in section 123 d. shall commence.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 9, 1999.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules, but not before 5 p.m. today.

PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 169) to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921, to expand the pilot investigation for the collection of information regarding prices paid for the procurement of cattle and sheep for slaughter and of muscle cuts of beef and lamb to include swine and muscle cuts of swine, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 169

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXPANSION OF MANDATORY DOMESTIC REPORTING PILOT INVESTIGATION UNDER THE PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS ACT, 1921.

(a) INCLUSION OF SWINE; REFERENCE TO FORWARD CONTRACTING.—Section 416 of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 229a), as added by section 1127 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999, (as contained in section 101(a) of division A of Public Law 105-277), is amended in both paragraphs (1) and (2):

(1) by striking "beef, or" and inserting "beef,,"; and

(2) by inserting after "lamb," the following: "or domestic or imported swine for immediate slaughter and fresh muscle cuts of swine,".

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Such section is further amended by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respectively.

(c) DURATION OF SWINE PILOT INVESTIGATION.—Such section is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF PILOT INVESTIGATION.—If the pilot investigation required by this section is implemented before the date on which the pilot investigation is expanded to include swine, the Secretary of Agriculture shall continue the pilot investigation beyond the 12-month period referred to in subsection (a) so that price information regarding the procurement of domestic or imported swine for immediate slaughter and fresh muscle cuts of swine is collected under the pilot investigation for 12 months."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST).

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 169 is a simple bill and would simply add hogs and pork product to the pilot investigation on beef and lamb prices that was authorized last fall as a part of the omnibus appropriation.

I would like to thank and commend my colleague on the Committee on Appropriations and on the Subcommittee on Agriculture who is very instrumental in agriculture policy, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM), for introducing this legislation and for calling for its swift adoption.

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Many of our colleagues are aware that livestock prices, particularly those received by lamb and beef producers, have been distressingly low for some time. The pilot investigation that was included in last year's omnibus appropriations bill is a relatively non-intrusive way to shed some light on the workings of these complex markets.

Last fall, when the omnibus bill was being crafted, the pork producers declined to be included in the USDA pilot investigation. However, recent and drastic declines in live hog prices have led pork producers to reconsider and ultimately reverse that decision. Thus, H.R. 169 will simply include pork in the ongoing pilot investigation.

Tomorrow, the House Committee on Agriculture will conduct a hearing on livestock prices during which we will consider testimony outlining the current market conditions for beef, lamb and pork.

I hope that in this hearing we will be able to illuminate trends, dispel myths and come to a common understanding of how these livestock markets operate so that we can responsibly consider many proposals currently being discussed in the agricultural community. In the same way, I am hopeful that H.R. 169 will aid our deliberation of these issues by providing needed information and insight into the hog market.

I ask that Members support this legislation as a constructive step in this ongoing policy discussion.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry and a representative from northwestern Minnesota, I have been acutely aware of the downturn in many sectors of the farm economy. In particular, the U.S. livestock industry has been hard-hit with sustained low prices. Beef and lamb markets have been depressed for several years and, more recently, historically low prices have plagued the pork market.

The economic explanation for low prices is a complicated mix of supply,

demand and other factors such as trade. Legislative proposals have been pursued in an effort to return viability to the industry. However, I believe that we must be cautious in our approach. Whatever legislative actions are taken should not impede or wrongly dampen one aspect of the industry to benefit another. We need to ensure that we move carefully toward the combined goal of a stable and viable livestock industry.

To this end, I believe that H.R. 169 is a prudent use of our authority. Building on last fall's effort to initiate a pilot study of comprehensive mandatory price reporting for beef and lamb, the bill simply seeks to add pork to that study. One of the unknown factors in the low price story is the impact of price information. It is unclear whether or not a full and open price reporting system operated through the Federal Government would allow producers to operate more effectively to market their products. A complete study of the impacts of price reporting with a quick turnaround on the results would help direct any future action in this area.

Obviously, the passage of this bill and the resulting study will not cure the ills that are facing the livestock industry at this time. But it is a small piece that can answer an important question: Can greater price information aid livestock producers? The information obtained from the study should help us proceed in a logical and effective manner.

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in support of our livestock producers and support H.R. 169.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM), the author of this proposal, and again, one of the strong advocates of American agriculture.

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to express my thanks to the chairman of the full committee. He has done such a great job working for American agriculture, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. COMBEST) and his cooperation in working out a few technical difficulties we had, but I appreciate it very, very much. Also, I appreciate the comments of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), who has worked so hard for all of agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, on January 6, I introduced H.R. 169 in an effort to level the playing field for embattled American pork producers. I think the Speaker is acutely aware of the problems that pork producers have experienced in recent months with the prices dipping down to under \$10 per hundred. Currently, they moved back up to close to \$28 per hundred, but certainly well below any level of profitability. We have experienced prices well below Depression Era prices, and it is so important that we do as much as possible